

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1 (Canceled).
- 2 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein the retaining structure comprises a wire-form structure.
- 3 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein at least one of the struts comprises a wire-form structure.
- 4 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein the retaining structure and the struts each comprises a wire-form structure.
- 5 (Canceled).
- 6 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein at least one of the struts carries a structure sized and configured to increase a surface area of contact with tissue at, above, or below the annulus.
- 7 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
further including at least one structure appended to the scaffold and being sized and configured to contact tissue at, above, or below the heart valve annulus to stabilize the scaffold.
- 8 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein the scaffold includes a material and a shape to provide a spring-like bias to enable compliant contact with tissue near or within the heart valve annulus.
- 9 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein the struts reshape the heart valve annulus.
- 10 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein the struts apply tension to tissue to reshape the heart valve annulus.
- 11 (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
wherein the struts displace tissue to reshape the heart valve annulus.
- 12 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15
further including a second heart valve treatment element appended to the scaffold to affect a heart valve function.
- 13 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15

wherein the second heart valve treatment element includes means for reshaping the heart valve annulus for leaflet coaptation.

14 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended). ~~An implant~~ A method according to claim [1] 15 wherein the second heart valve treatment element includes means for separating tissue along an axis of the heart valve annulus for leafleted coaptation.

15 (Currently Amended). A method for retaining a native mitral heart leaflet to resist retrograde flow comprising ~~the steps of~~

providing an implant that retains a native mitral heart valve leaflet to resist retrograde flow comprising a scaffold sized and configured to rest adjacent all or a portion of a native mitral heart valve annulus, at least a portion of the scaffold defining a pseudo-annulus and including a retaining structure near or within the pseudo-annulus that is sized and shaped to overlay at least a portion of one or more native mitral valve leaflets, the scaffold further including spaced-apart struts sized and configured to contact tissue near or within the mitral heart valve annulus to brace the retaining structure to resist leaflet eversion and/or prolapse,

establishing an intravascular access path that extends from a right atrium through a septum and into a left atrium,

introducing an the implant as defined in claim 1 through the intravascular path into a heart the left atrium, and

resisting leaflet eversion and/or prolapse by locating the scaffold as defined in claim 1 adjacent all or a portion of [a] the native mitral heart valve annulus to define a pseudo-annulus with the retaining structure as defined in claim 1 overlaying at least a portion of one or more native mitral valve leaflets and with the spaced-apart struts as defined in claim 1 contacting tissue near or within the mitral heart valve annulus to brace the retaining structure.

16 (Canceled).

17 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 15 wherein the introducing step comprises ~~using a surgical procedure in which~~ constraining the implant is carried within a catheter in a collapsed condition.

18 (Canceled).

19 (New). A method according to claim 17

wherein the locating comprises expelling the implant from the catheter to free the implant from the catheter.